(b) if so, by when the electronic voting machines will be brought in action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) Government have taken a preliminary decision accepting the recommendation of the Election Commission that electronic voting machines be introduced in elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, as part of the proposals to improve the present election system. A final decision will be taken only after consultation with the political parties.

(b) It will not be possible to give any definite indication because consultations with the political parties are to be held first and then on the basis of agreement reached, the relevant laws have to be announced. These processes will take some time.

High Court Bench at Raipur

900. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action has been taken by the Central Government to set up a High Court Bench at Raipur in Madhya Pradesh in pursuance of Jaswant Singh Commission's Report;

(b) whether the matter has been referred to M.P. State Government; if so, what is the reaction of the State Government; and

(c) whether in view of the agitation in Bhopal and Jabalpur, Government are thinking of adopting a different course of action, which would be against the specific recommendations of the Jaswant Singh's Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) to (c) The specific recommendations made by the Jaswant Singh Commission regarding setting up of a bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court have been referred to the Government of Madhya Pradesh for their comments and views. Further action in the matter could be taken by the Government of India only after receipt of fresh proposal from the State Government.

Meeting with Indian Confederation of Engineering Industry

901. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken into consideration the deliberations made at the two-day "National Meeting on India" held recently which was attended to by the leading businessmen from the West and other parts of the world together with the Indian Confederation of Engineering Industry; and

(b) if so, what are the views of the Central Governmentl on the subject and the impact on the development of industry in the country particularly on joint ventures in India and Third World countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes Sir. Such meeting was held on 23-24 March, 1987.

(b) The meeting was private and was not sponsored by Government. though Ministers and Government Officails participated in the meeting to explain India's industrial, fiscal and trade policies to the foreign industrialists and businessmen gathered there. No formal conclusions were arrived at the meeting which were communicated to the Government.